

May 11, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

0235 '99 MAY 14 P2:26

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the
Production, Processing, and Handling of Food

To whom it may concern:

I support the recommendation by the Center for Science in the Public
Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods:

"any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by
irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel
indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close
proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the international symbol. If
the food is unpackaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in
plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale."

Like other labels, irradiation labels are required by FDA to be truthful and not
misleading. I believe that the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by
irradiation" should be retained. Any phrase involving the word "pasteurization" is
misleading because pasteurization is an entirely different process of rapid heating
and cooling.

I recognize the radura as information regarding a material fact of food
processing. The requirement for irradiation disclosure (both label and radura)
should not expire at any time in the future. The material fact of processing
remains. Even if some consumers become familiar with the radura, the market is
constantly changing. In order to adequately inform all consumers, the symbol should
be clearly understandable at the point of purchase for every one. If there is no
label, consumers will be misled into believing the food has not been irradiated.

I think the public should be informed about the participants in this comment
process, and a public forum such as the internet would be appropriate.

Sincerely,

Connie Wright

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